

OBITUARY NOTICES

JULIUS EUTING

SEMITIC learning, especially in the department of epigraphy, has suffered a severe loss in the death, at Strassburg, on the night of January 1–2, 1913, of Professor Julius Euting.

Professor Euting, who was born at Stuttgart on July 17, 1839, was educated at the Gymnasium in that city, and at the Seminar at Blaubeuren. In 1857 he joined the training institution of the Evangelical Church at Tübingen with a view to a clerical career; but Oriental studies diverted him from theology, and in 1863–4 he undertook a course of research in these subjects in Paris, London, and Oxford. In 1866 he became Keeper of the Library of the Tübingen Theological Institute, and later of the University Library, and throughout his life his official duties were connected with libraries. In 1871 he accepted a call to the post of First Librarian at the newly-organized University and Provincial Library at Strassburg, later on becoming Chief Librarian, and, in 1900, Director, which office he held until his retirement, on attaining the age of 70, in 1909. Since 1880 he had also been Honorary Professor in the University.

But though these official appointments seemed to indicate a career of peaceful stay-at-home activity among books, this was by no means the real tenor of his life. He was a constant and unwearied traveller, and his physical energy and active interest in research demanded the widest sphere for their satisfaction. In 1869 he visited Sicily, and then Tunis, with the object of studying in situ

the Phœnician inscriptions of Carthage, and in the following year he again repaired to Sicily, Greece, Asia Minor, and Constantinople. The fruit of these journeys was recorded in the publication, first, in the Memoirs of the St. Petersburg Academy, of "Punic Stone Inscriptions" (1871), then "A second Dedicatory Inscription from Carthage" (1874), and "Six Phœnician Inscriptions from Idalion" (1875). In 1877 he published a catalogue of the Arabic literature in the Strassburg Library. In 1883, with the assistance of the Royal Academy of Sciences, Berlin, he brought out a stately volume entitled *Collection of the Inscriptions of Carthage*, vol. i, containing not only those gathered by himself but also those collected by others. This volume remains without a sequel, because Euting was, immediately on its completion, absorbed by other interests, and also, no doubt, because the ground was occupied by the *Corpus Inscriptionum Semiticarum*, of which the issue was begun by the French Academy.

In the autumn of 1883 he undertook, with the support of the then *Statthalter* of Elsass-Lothringen, Baron Manteuffel, an important journey into Inner Arabia, in the greater part of which he was accompanied by Charles Huber, a French Alsatian, who had already travelled in the same region. The journey began with a visit to Egypt, where he obtained from the Khedive letters of commendation to the Amirs of Central Arabia. He then proceeded to Syria, where, among other finds, he discovered an important bilingual inscription in Palmyrene and Greek. On August 31 he left Damascus, and travelled, via the Leja', the western skirts of the Jebel Drüz, 'Ormân, Kâf, and the Wādî Sirhân, to the Jauf, and thence via the Great Nefūd to Hā'il, the seat of the dynasty of Ibn Rashid. After a considerable stay there, he proceeded via the mountains of Ṭayyi' to Taimā, where he took a squeeze of the celebrated ancient

Aramaic inscription, the stone bearing which is now in the Louvre. From Taimā he visited Tebūk on the Pilgrimage Road, and then, returning to Taimā, set out for el-Ḥegr, where in three days' time (March 26–28, 1884) he took squeezes of twenty-nine stately Aramaic inscriptions, contained in tablets over the entrances of the rock-cut tombs of the ancient trading population of the Nabatæan kingdom at that place. At el-'Ulā, ten miles south of el-Ḥegr, he similarly obtained squeezes of the Sabæan inscriptions which mark the terminus of the South-Arabian trading caravans northwards from Aden. Soon afterwards he was attacked by Bedouins of the Juhainah tribe, and was compelled in self-defence to take the lives of two of the brigands. This obliged him to make his way as speedily as possible to the seaport of el-Wejh, whence he crossed the Red Sea to Kosseir. From there he went via Egypt to Jerusalem. The fruit of this adventurous journey was the volume *Nabatäische Inschriften aus Arabien*, published with the aid of the Berlin Academy in 1885, and the *Tagebuch*, the first volume of which appeared in 1896. Both these works are of the greatest value to Semitic study: the inscriptions (in the interpretation of which Professor Nöldeke collaborated) in establishing the character and real significance of the Nabatæan kingdom, overthrown by Trajan in A.D. 106; and the *Tagebuch* as a record of Arabian travel full of precise and accurate observation by a most sympathetic and highly-qualified specialist in Arabic studies. The *Tagebuch* contains a number of short Aramaic *graffiti* collected during the journey. The Taimā inscription was published by Nöldeke in the Proceedings of the Berlin Academy in 1884.

In the spring of 1889 Euting was again in Arabia, this time in the company of his friend Dr. Karl Vollers, Director of the Khedivial Library at Bulaq, who joined him in the Sinai Peninsula. There he copied nearly seven

hundred of the celebrated inscriptions on the rock-faces of the valleys in the neighbourhood of the Monastery of St. Catherine and those on the return journey to Egypt, afterwards going on to the country east of the Jordan. These were published, with an interpretation (in which Nöldeke again co-operated), in a volume, also aided by the Berlin Academy, in 1891. Several of these inscriptions, which proceed from the same Nabatæan folk as the inscriptions of el-Hëgr, are dated, and are of the highest importance as evidence of the origin, religion, and circumstances of the people—Arabic-speaking, but using Aramaic as a medium for writing—who for centuries carried on the trade between the emporia of Southern Arabia and the coasts of the Mediterranean Sea.

In January, 1890, Euting, in conjunction with Professor Koldewey (now Director of the German expedition at Babylon), took part in the excavations carried on by Professor von Luschan at Zinjirli in Northern Syria, which, besides the important finds connected with the Hittite Empire, yielded results of the greatest interest in the well-known early Aramaic inscriptions of King Panammu.

In 1898 Professor Euting accompanied Dr. R. Brünnow on his journey along the Roman road in the East-Jordan country from Mādebā via Petra and 'Odruh to el-'Aqabah, dealing everywhere with the Aramaic inscriptions found there. The results of this journey are recorded in the first volume of Brünnow and Domaszewski's magnificent work, *Die Provincia Arabia*, published in 1904.

In the autumn of 1903 Euting was again in the lands east of the Jordan, this time busy with the commission of superintending the removal of the great façade of the celebrated palace of el-Meshettā (now generally referred to Umayyad times), which had been presented by Sultan Abdul-Hamid to the Emperor William of Germany. The task was successfully accomplished, and the façade is now

one of the chief glories of the Kaiser Friedrich Museum in Berlin.

Although Phœnician and Aramaic epigraphy was his special field, in which he stood at the head of European scholars, his interests were by no means restricted to these. Among other tasks, he undertook the study of the language and literature of the almost extinct Sabians or Mandæans, the remnant of Semitic Gnosticism long known by the misleading title of "Christians of St. John". In 1867 he published a beautiful transcript of the *Qolāsta* (Arabic *Khulāṣah*), containing hymns and doctrinal discourses, prayers to be offered by priests at sacrifices, and other liturgical matter. In 1904 he edited, under the title *Mandäischer Diwan*, a photolithographic reproduction, made by Dr. B. Poertner, of a Mandaic MS. in the College of the Propaganda in Rome.

His handwriting was beautiful and of the clearest, and his *ἀκρίβεια* in rendering the forms of ancient alphabets almost without parallel. In a succession of works by various scholars dealing with Semitic studies tables by him have been incorporated, showing the forms taken by the letters from age to age, and from one country to another. A well-known table of this kind is that contained in Professor G. Bickell's *Outlines of Hebrew Grammar* (Englished by Dr. S. I. Curtiss in 1877). A less known but not less valuable conspectus is his *Three Tables of the Pehlevi and Zend Alphabets*, drawn and published at Strassburg in 1878. He possessed also great artistic skill with brush and pen, and his books are illustrated by many beautiful sketches from his hand.

Of his personality as known to his friends this is not the place to speak at length. They will ever remember the delightful and kindly humour which made him one of the most charming of companions, the ready sympathy and interest which he carried everywhere both in East

and West, and which gained for him the affection and confidence of all men with whom he was brought in contact. He was never happier than when wandering among the forest-clad hills of the Vosges or his native Swabia, which he knew with a most intimate knowledge, and he delighted to speak the dialect of the country and to talk to the peasants as one of themselves.

C. J. LYALL.